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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Peter Wernet

Art Unit:

1636

Serial No.:

09/985,335

Examiner:

Quang Nguyen

Filed:

November 2, 2001

Customer No.:

21559

Title:

HUMAN CORD DERIVED UNRESTRICTED SOMATIC STEM

CELLS (USSC)

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION OF PETER WERNET UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 TO OVERCOME ERICES ET AL.

Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 and regarding the rejection of 1-10 and 13 for anticipation by Erices *et al.* (*Br. J. Haematol.* 109:235-242, April 2000; "Erices"), I declare:

- 1. I am the inventor of the subject matter described and claimed in the abovecaptioned patent application.
- 2. I have read and understood the Office action mailed September 11, 2003, in this case.

- 3. I was in possession of the claimed invention prior to April 1, 2000. This is evidenced by the results of flow cytometry experiments (Exhibit A) that were performed under my direction and control prior to April 1, 2000.
- 4. Exhibit A contains data from FACS analysis of the unrestricted somatic stem cells (USSCs) isolated according to the methods described in Example 1 of the specification. Specifically, blood samples were collected from human umbilical cords immediately after birth using collections bags containing citrate phosphate dextrose. The blood mononuclear cells were isolated using Ficoll density gradient centrifugation and cultured according to one of the four conditions described in the specification at page 17, lines 1-12. In order to obtain a sufficient number of cells for FACS, cultured mononuclear cells were expanded according to the culture method provided in the specification at page 17, last paragraph.
- 5. A profile of cell surface markers was determined for the expanded mononuclear cells using FACS. The results are summarized below and compared to those taught by Erices.

Cell Surface Marker	Exhibit A	Cells Described in the Specification	Mesenchymal-like Cells of Erices		
IgG (negative control)	page 1	negative	negative		
Markers Recited in the Pending Claims					
CD13	page 2, middle	positive	positive		
CD14	page 2, right page 4, middle	negative	negative		
CD29	page 6, left	positive	positive		
CD35		negative	N.D.		

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PRADE D44	page 4, left	positive	N.D.
CD45	page 3, middle page 4, right page 11, middle	negative	negative
CD49e	page 3, left	positive	positive

Other Markers Described in the Specification or by Erices

HLA I	page 2, left	positive	N.D.
CD31	page 9, middle	negative	negative
CD34	page 6, right page 8, right page 11, right	negative	negative
CD49d			negative
CD54			positive
- CD90			positive
CD106			negative
α-smooth muscle actin (ASMA)			positive
von Willebrand factor			negative
SH-2	page 10, left	positive	positive
SH-3	page 9, left	positive	positive
SH-4			positive
SSEA-4	page 5, left	positive	N.D.

N.D. = not determined

6. As is shown in Exhibit A, prior to April 1, 2000, I had isolated and characterized the unrestricted somatic stem cells (USSCs) of the presently claimed invention.

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Werner:

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and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.

Date: Karal 10,2004

Dr. Peter Wernet



















